AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Method of producing a product protein, wherein the protein is expressed from a ~~mammalian cell, preferably from a~~ lymphoid cell, in cell culture at least during a certain span of time during cell culture, comprising the steps

a) preparing a serum-free cell culture medium for culturing lymphoid ~~mammalian~~ cells, ~~preferably~~

~~preparing a cell culture medium that is devoid of butyrate, and further preferred preparing a cell culture medium allowing for growth of the mammalian cells, more preferably a protein-free cell culture growth medium,~~

b) and further adding acetic acid or an acetate salt or an acetyl ester to a final concentration of from 1 to 20 mM~~, preferably of from 3 to 15 mM, more preferably of from 5 to 12 mM, most preferably of from 6 to 9.5 mM~~, said addition being carried out either directly to the medium prior to starting cell culture or feeding it to the medium during cell culture,

c) further culturing~~, preferably growing,~~ said cell in said medium with concomittant expression of product protein,

d) and finally harvesting said protein from the cell culture.

2. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, characterised in that the

addition of acetic acid or a salt thereof is carried out directly to the medium prior to or at starting the cell culture.

3. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, characterised in that an ~~acetate~~ alkali metal or alkaline earth metal acetate salt is added to the medium.

4. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, characterised in that the cells are ~~lymphoid cells, preferably~~ NS0 cells.

5. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 4, characterised in that the cells are NS0 cells that are recombinant for and can express Glutamine synthetase.

6. (Currently Amended) Cell culture medium for animal cell culture, characterised in that the medium is serum free and is suited for culturing lymphoid ~~mammalian~~ cells and comprises acetic acid or an acetate salt or a biologically activated acetyl ester at a concentration of from 1 to 20 mM~~, preferably of from 3 to 15 mM, more preferably of from 5 to 12 mM, most preferably at about 6 to 9.5 mM, and preferably is devoid of butyric acid or any of its salts~~.

7. (Currently Amended) Cell culture medium according to claim [[3]] 6, characterised in that the medium is a high density cell culture medium.

Claim 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) Cell culture medium according to claim 6, characterised in that the medium is a ~~serum-free and~~ protein-free cell culture medium~~, preferably a protein-free medium suitable for NS0 cell culture~~.

10. (Original) A medium concentrate for preparation of a culture medium as defined in claim 6 which is either a solid or a liquid.

Claims 11-12. (Cancelled)

13. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein said serum-free cell culture medium is devoid of butyrate.

14. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein said serum-free culture medium allows for the growth of lymphoid cells.

15. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein the serum-free cell culture medium is protein-free.

16. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein said final concentration is from 3 to 15 mM.

17. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein said final concentration is from 5 to 12 mM.

18. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein said final concentration is from 6 to 9.5 mM.

19. (new) The cell culture of claim 9 wherein the protein-free medium is suitable for NSO cell culture.